



Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil:

5:00 p.m.,
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Sunday:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
11:30 a.m.,
4:00 p.m. (Lifeteen)

Daily Mass:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 7:30 a.m.;
Wed, 12 p.m. (noon)

Adoration:

Mon, Tue, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.;
Wed, 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.;
Fri, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Confessions:

Sat, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Actively and Faithfully Serve Our Parish and Community

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA), established more than 100 years ago in 1903, is one of the oldest and largest organizations for Catholic women in the Americas. The CDA motto is "Unity and Charity." They donate to charities, administer scholarship programs, and strive "to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow, or sickness.

Our own Catholic Daughters of the Americas court — the proper name for a chapter — was established in October 2008. They will celebrate their 10th anniversary in October. The full name of our CDA is the Court of Salve Regina #2611. The current head of the group, called the Regent, is Shirley Royster, who also was a charter member of the organization ten years ago. Our CDA carries out a multitude of important services in our community and parish.

"A co-worker invited me to be a member when our Court began, and I responded," Shirley says. "At the time I was looking for a way to have fellowship with other Catholic women, as well as serving



The CDA's presentation of Mother's Day Gift bags to the local women's shelter Friends of the Family includes (from left) Treasurer Linda Clark, FOF Coordinator Cheyenne Wolfe, Recording Secretary Rebecca Check, and Regent Shirley Royster.

my church and community. I have never regretted that decision."

Our Court meets once a month on the second Sunday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall.

"Actually," Shirley says, "we gather at 11 a.m. in the church to pray the Rosary,

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The Spirituality of Stewardship

Following in the Footsteps of the Saints

The word “stewardship” has long carried with it the association of a financial obligation to the Church. Many believe that stewardship means “giving my time and money to the Church in support of its work, lest it is unable to survive and thrive.”

Indeed, stewardship does often require sacrifice of some kind. But the reality is that stewardship is not simply a guilt-laden obligation, or a “bill.” Nor is stewardship in any way comparable to a tax payment or a charitable networking opportunity at work. Instead, stewardship is a spiritual way of life – an active response to Christ’s invitation to unreservedly “come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt 4:19).

Stewardship is about how we respond to God’s call to discipleship, and there are many different ways we can respond to His call. We can, in turn, live the stewardship way of life simply by making small choices in our daily lives, under normal, everyday circumstances.

Nowhere in Christian history is there a more archetypal example of the variety of ways we can respond to God’s call, than in the lives of the saints. The saints represent a wide cross-section of individuals – old and young, rich and poor – living in different times in human history. Some were called to the religious life, focusing their lives on spirituality and material simplicity through prayer, and helping to form the tenets of faith. Others were individuals focused on charitable outreach, dedicating their whole lives to feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Still, others faced great adversity and challenges to their faith, and ultimately suffered death and martyrdom in loyalty to Christ and His Church.

However, the commonality that all of these individuals share is that they responded to God’s call to discipleship by utilizing the unique talents that God had given them. They did so in ways that were conducive to their individual personalities, and that actively influenced the circumstances presented to them in their respective days and times. Contemplative spirituality, charitable giving, great courage – all of these roads have led to canonization and, ultimately, eternal life with God in His glory. We are all called to do the same.

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, “The challenge, then, is to understand our role – our vocation – and to respond generously to this call from God” (43). When thinking about the spirituality of stewardship, take some time to discern your talents, and how you can best respond to God’s call by naturally and effectively using the gifts He has given you. If you are a gregarious person, this might mean reaching out to a co-worker you don’t know very well, thus helping to create a hospitable work environment. If you are an individual who is often “on the go,” perhaps this means praying the Rosary while you are driving from place to place. If you have recently experienced a financial windfall or unexpected increase in income, this might mean sponsoring a little league team in your community by paying for their uniforms.

God has provided many roads to the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the saints, we see examples of the many roads that have been taken. Choosing the one that is best for us means that we can live stewardship as a spiritual practice and a way of life, and that we may answer His call to discipleship.

Christ Becomes One With Us Through the Eucharist

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Any of us who are old enough to remember the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, had to have been marked by that experience. As I reflect on this solemn date in our country's history, I also faithfully reflect upon our celebration of the Eucharist. As Catholics, through the Eucharist, we are called to consciously be bread broken and wine poured out for others each day of our lives. We are called to become what we receive.

Throughout the calendar year, certain dates are commemorated to inspire us to remember and honor those who may have been lost. These kinds of days — like 9/11 — are testimony to the reality that we, as human beings, are consciously connected to one another. There are unfortunately some who would have us believe that we are independent, separated from those around us.

For us as Catholics, the reception of the Eucharist is the most intimate union with God Himself on this earth. It is through the Body of Christ that we are unified to God and one another, and reminds us that we are invited to be bread broken and wine poured out for our world.

We gather as a community around the table of the Eucharist. We receive the gift of Christ's Body and Blood so that we may become the embodiment of God's love among us. As we receive Christ, we should recommit ourselves to following in Jesus' footsteps and reaching out to those around us with mercy,



encouragement and compassion. By doing that, we reaffirm our identity as disciples and our Baptismal commitment to be His Body and Blood given for others.

Unfortunately to some, the Eucharist has been diluted to the point that it is viewed as merely a ritual or a symbol. As Catholics, we know that it is Christ's real presence among us — we are to accept that gift and personally become Christ's presence everywhere we go and in everything we do.

The very word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." When we live a Eucharistic life, it has everything to do with gratitude. Let us be thankful for the Eucharist and thankful for one another, and let us demonstrate

that through the love that pours out of us.

In Christ,

Fr. George
Pastor



MEET PARISHIONERS PIERRE

“Stewardship is About L



Gloria Rouly remembers moving to New Braunfels from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and listening to women sharing stories about a powerful retreat they had attended. She knew she wanted to share this experience.

“I believe the ACTS retreats changed our lives and are the basis of our faith journeys,” says Gloria. “Of course we have our struggles, but we always turn to our faith and tell our children to do the same.”

Gloria and Pierre Rouly’s faith journey and return to the area involves a unique calling. After living in New Braunfels for a few years, they decided to move to the rural community of Argyle to be closer to Gloria’s family in Arkansas and to lessen Pierre’s business travel.

As they prepared to move, Gloria attended her first ACTS retreat, and Pierre recalls how it impacted her.

“I never will forget how attending reenergized her spiritual life and her prayer life,” says Pierre. “She bonded tremendously with other ladies within the parish community who had attended. She immediately committed serve on the next ACTS Team.”

One evening Gloria shared with Pierre that she felt called to bring ACTS to their new faith community. They began researching and found that at the time two Denton parishes did not have ACTS nor did the Ft. Worth or Dallas Diocese.

“To this point in my faith journey I attended Mass regularly but had never yet been involved,” says Pierre. “I responded that if that is how she feels, then she should sign me up for ACTS so I can understand and help her fulfill that calling.”

Pierre attended his first ACTS retreat in the fall of 2002 and describes ACTS, which stands for Adoration, Community, Theology and Service, as a “unique encounter with the Holy Spirit.” It is a two-and-a-half-day retreat developed by men active in Cursillo in the San Antonio Diocese and focused on parish building.

“Retreatants begin faith sharing groups with those that they see at Mass, creating a more energized cohesive family and parish committed to strengthening God’s Kingdom,” says Pierre. “I immediately signed up to be part of the team putting on the spring 2003 retreat to study how it is done.”

Though Pierre and Gloria weren’t entirely sure how they would start the retreat, they relied upon the Holy Spirit and the experience with and counseling from their New Braunfels teams. They moved and joined St. Mark’s in August of 2003 and knew they had found their parish home.

“Make a decision, and then just jump into parish life,” says Pierre. “Like us you may feel unprepared or not worthy to do the work you see being done by others, but that work is dependent upon us saying ‘yes.’”



PIERRE AND GLORIA ROULY

Being Christ for Others”

After moving, Gloria and Pierre would connect after work to ask about progress they had made throughout the day toward their ACTS goal. They placed many phone calls and delivered numerous presentations to parishioners, ministries and eventually the parish council.

“Our first men’s ACTS retreat was held at Camp Copass just six months after our arrival,” says Pierre. “Since then ACTS spread to Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart in Muenster, St. Peter’s in Lindsey, St. Mary’s in Gainesville, All Saints in Ft. Worth, St. Philip in Lewisville and Our Lady of Lourdes in Mineral Wells.”

Pierre shares that ACTS retreatants feel that attending a retreat helps them strongly experience the presence of the Holy Spirit, strengthen and energize their faith, understand the beauty of the Church and develop relationships with other parishioners.

“Attending an ACTS retreat brings you closer to God and softens and opens your heart up to accept God’s calling,” says Gloria. “Attending ACTS also really helped our children come closer to Christ.”

In addition to ACTS, Pierre, Gloria and their five children — Anthony, Veronica, Fischer, Nash and Elijah — try to live stewardship by being involved in many ways in parish life. Pierre has served as an extraordinary minister, lector and participated on the Parish Council.

Gloria has also served as an extraordinary minister and last year co-chaired the dessert bar at the annual auction dinner. Veronica served on the Teen ACTS team, Fischer served as an altar server and then an usher, and Nash and Elijah now also serve as altar servers.

“Stewardship is all about being Christ to others,” says Gloria. “If you are a faith-filled person and seeking Christ, you will always look at everything in your life as an opportunity He has given you.”

The Rouly family is now celebrating 15 years of belonging to St. Mark’s and look forward to continuing to grow in their faith alongside members of our community.

“It has been a tremendous experience,” says Pierre. “We look forward to what the future holds, and we know that we are truly blessed to be part of this wonderful faith community.”

“Stewardship is all about being Christ to others. If you are a faith-filled person and seeking Christ, you will always look at everything in your life as an opportunity He has given you.”

— Gloria Rouly





Vacation Bible



Over 300 children participated in this year's program.



Our young people enjoyed a week of faith and fun at this year's Vacation Bible School.

Family vacations, baseball games, swimming — there are so many things to love about summer! And for the youngest members of St. Mark's, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is often at the top of that list.

Each summer, our children have the opportunity to participate in one of the most fun and exciting events of the year. This past summer, our program certainly did not disappoint! With 300 children ranging from Pre-K through fifth grade, and nearly as many middle and high school-age volunteers, it was quite the summer highlight.

Held during the first week of June, VBS gave our children a chance to learn more about their faith, while having fun with other kids who share their beliefs. The theme for this summer was "Shipwrecked: Rescued By God."

"My favorite part is just seeing how excited the kids get about being there and wanting to learn about Jesus and celebrate that with their peers," says Bethany Hoffman, who served as the Director of VBS this year. "Also seeing the teens want to be so involved and want to help out with the little kids, it's what makes the whole thing so awesome."

Working closely with Director of Religious Education Andrea Woolums, Bethany served alongside Co-Director Crystal Kulle and Teen Director Susan Hein, who coordinated the young people who served as volunteers.

The week consisted of games, crafts, music, snacks, serving those in need and plenty of opportunities to learn about the faith in creative ways.

"It's fun and it's a little less formal," Bethany says. "I also think it's important because they are building some really important friendships and bonds. I hope that they come away feeling more a part of our community at St. Mark's, feeling welcome and comfortable, and okay with sharing and learning about our faith with other people."

Although serving our children is the heart of VBS, many volunteers also find that their own faith is enriched and strengthened by being involved.

"God calls us to come to Him, having faith like a child," Bethany says. "Being able to see it through children's eyes and how much they love and can learn from VBS, I think it can really boost your faith and make you excited to share it with other people."

School

Program Offered Plenty of Fun and Faith for Our Parish Youth This Summer

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For Bethany, a mom of three and teacher, VBS is the perfect way to use her talents and give back to the parish.

“I can’t make the full year commitment as a catechist, and this is how I’m able to do my part,” she says. “I’m a teacher in a public school, so I don’t get to see this as often. I love to see the faith come alive at my church.”

Bethany hopes that the central message of this summer’s theme — being rescued by God — sticks with kids and families as they begin the new school year.

“The theme is perfect for going into a new school year because we all get busy and tend to forget about those things,” Bethany says. “No matter the issue that might be coming up, the struggle you might be facing or something new and scary, it’s okay, Jesus is there with you. We should remember that as families.”

Special thanks to all the families and volunteers who participated in this year’s Vacation Bible School, making it such a success! We can’t wait to see you next summer!

If you would like more information on Faith Formation activities for children, please contact Andrea Woolums, our Director of Religious Education, at 940-222-8081 or awoolums@stmarkdenton.org.



Many thanks to our dedicated youth and adult volunteers who made the week such a success!



At the heart of VBS is a desire to help kids grow in their relationship with God in a fun and active environment.

Saint Mark

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Catholic Daughters of the Americas continued from front cover

then we attend Mass. I think we are recognizable because of our purple uniforms. We began with 20 members, but now boast 61 active and involved members. Lunch is included at our monthly meetings.”

“We respond to the needs of the parish,” Shirley says. “There is so much we do in that regard. We are involved in our parish Oktoberfest. We provide light meals to the RCIA people. Perhaps one of our best known events is the Prayer Breakfast we host on the Saturday morning before the First Sunday of Advent. That has grown into an area-wide activity with women coming from other nearby Courts and parishes. It is a great way to spiritually begin our Advent season as we prepare for Christmas.”

To be sure, unity and charity are hallmarks of the CDA. Their national office explains, “Catholic Daughter women enjoy each other’s company and work hard for their parishes and communities. Today the CDA numbers almost 70,000 members in 1,150 Courts in 45 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Kenya, and Peru.”

“We do so many things and support so much, that it is difficult to list or remember them all,” Shirley says. We support Our Daily Bread food pantry, Special Olympics, Loreto House, Coats for Kids, pro life activities, including the Dallas Walk for Life, and we are especially proud of our involvement and relationship with the Friends of the Family women’s shelter.”



Hosting Officer Training (from left) Ann Henthorne, Rebecca Check, Pat Zimmerer, and Marilou Anderson.

CDA is open to Catholic women over the age of 18. For more information or if interested in becoming a member, contact Regent Shirley Royster at 940-206-7682.

Saint Mark